

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The cable TV provider in my area of Leon County, Florida is Time Warner. Comcast services the majority of Leon County. Historically my area of the county has been ignored by the cable TV industry and by our local government. Until just this past year, the cable service has been antiquated. It was not until 2001 that digital cable was offered for my part of Leon County (i.e. for those of us who were not serviced by Comcast). It was not until 2001 that we were offered any pay-per-view whatsoever. We still are not offered any broadband internet capability (nor does the local telephone provider offer it for my area of Leon County). The quality of the 'local channels' provided via Time Warner cable is awful. The picture and audio is terrible (yet I am also unable not authorized to receive local channels through my satellite provider). There is simply no excuse for this substandard service. There is no reason to continue to protect cable providers from competition. There is no reason why Time Warner cable should have the exclusive right in my area to provide local channels. The merger between Echostar and Direct TV should be approved. It is clear that the consumer will benefit from the merger.

Sincerely,

George Rasky
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Tallahassee, FL 32312